



Gingerbread Festival

2024 Artist Guide

Gingerbread Festival Registration FAQs

1. When and where do I drop off my awesome gingerbread house entry?

We ask you to please drop off your entry on Monday, Nov. 25, between 10:00 a.m., and 2:00 p.m., at Carroll County Public Library – Westminster Branch (50 E Main Street | Westminster, MD 21157).

2. What's the voting process?

Votes are \$1.00 each. We encourage you to reach out to your family, friends and neighbors in support of your participation!

3. You mentioned reaching out to my network of supporters. How should I go about doing that?

We love this question! We urge you to reach out to your supporters by ways of social media, e-mail, phone call, text message and so on. Here are a couple of sample messages for you to use:

- I'm/we're participating in HSP's Gingerbread Festival this year. Please join me in the fight to end poverty by voting for my gingerbread house...
- HSP's Gingerbread Festival raises important dollars to fight poverty. Please show your support by voting for my gingerbread house...

Be sure to consider your entire network: church, doctor's and dentist's offices, veterinary clinic, school or business, hair/nail/barber salon, frequently visited restaurants/coffee shops - You know more people than you think! Your network can support you by purchasing votes AND encouraging their networks to do the same!

4. When are votes tallied?

Once the event has ended, votes will then be tallied by Friday, Dec. 13.

5. How will winners be notified?

Winners will receive a phone call or e-mail, as well as be announced via Facebook (@HumanServicesPrograms) on Monday, Dec. 16. Winners will need to complete a W9. We will send the winner a check via snail mail.

6. When and where do I pick my gingerbread house back up?

We ask that you please pick up your entry on Monday, Dec. 9, between 10:00 a.m., and 2:00 p.m., at Carroll County Public Library – Westminster Branch.

7. What happens if I don't pick my entry back up?

Sadly, we will dispose of your entry. (Don't worry, we will take photos commemorating your masterpiece)!

8. What if I know individuals or companies that may want to get involved with Gingerbread Festival or HSP?

Wow! You've asked some great questions – and it looks like this is another one. We offer some fantastic sponsorship opportunities through Gingerbread Festival – ranging from \$250 - \$2,500. We also offer meaningful partnership opportunities with HSP. please e-mail Vickie Slinkman at vslinkman@hspinc.org or call 410-386-6658.

9. Do you have any tips for creating the most perfect gingerbread house display?

Of course! We're so glad you asked this question. Check out the next page for our recommended tips and tricks.

10. If I have other questions, who should I contact?

For additional questions, please e-mail Vickie Slinkman at vslinkman@hspinc.org or call 410-386-6658.

*** PLEASE NOTE: YOUR GINGERBREAD HOUSE MUST BE NO LARGER THAN 30 IN. X 30 IN. X 30 IN.**

ADDITIONALLY, THE MAJORITY OF YOUR MASTERPIECE MUST BE EDIBLE.

Tips and Tricks to Building the *Perfect* Gingerbread House

1. Decorate *Before* Assembly

Think about it. It's much easier to decorate a gingerbread house still in its flat form than one that is already assembled.



2. Make the Strongest Icing “Glue”

This one may be a no brainer, but have you ever had a gingerbread house fall apart or just completely cave, while you're putting your last-minute finishing touches on it? Whether you're using a store-bought kit or you're making a homemade gingerbread house, it's vital to use a strong icing for your home construction.

3. Big Candy = Big Impact

Large, showy candies make for perfect eye-catching gingerbread house displays! Big candies like large swirly lollipops and large marshmallow rope roofs will have a big impact.

4. Use a Damp Cloth to Keep Your Icing Workable

We already mentioned using the strongest icing “glue” because the icing is one of the most important components in building your gingerbread house. Now, while the icing is meant to harden at the end of a job well done, the last thing you want is for the icing to harden before you're even ready to use it. Covering your bowl of icing with a damp cloth will actually help keep it workable.

5. Customize Your Gingerbread House Decorations



You can use store-bought fondant to make custom gingerbread house decorations. Using a plain white tub of fondant is perfect for this because you can dye it any color you'd like, as well as cut or roll it into different shapes.

6. Use Ice Cream Cones as Trees

You can file this little tip in the “Why didn't I think of that?!” folder. Yep, simply turn a classic sugar cone upside down, coat it in green frosting and decorate as desired. Voilà – You have yourself a tree as a nice little decoration to your gingerbread house.

7. Choose a Gingerbread House Theme

Picking a theme for your gingerbread house is a sure way to make it stand out. Here are just a few ideas:

- Gingerbread Log Cabin
- Gingerbread Christmas Village
- Gingerbread House Snow Globe
- Gingerbread Doghouse

**If you have other tips and tricks that you'd like to share with us,
please e-mail them to vslinkman@hspinc.org.**